

REEL SEAT FOR FISHING ROD AND FISHING ROD INCORPORATING THE  
REEL SEAT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1     Field of Invention

5     [0001] This invention relates to a fishing rod and a reel seat for a fishing rod, and specifically to a reel seat, in which a top-mount style fishing reel is fixed on a fishing rod, and that is provided with a trigger which stabilizes a user's grip of the rod in the user's palm or during casting.

2.     Description of Related Art

10     [0002] In a fishing rod which is designed to catch small to medium fish, and on which a top-mount style fishing rod reel, such as a coaxial receiving type reel, a bait reel, or the like is mounted, a trigger for use as a finger rest may be provided. The trigger may be in the form of a lever. Normally, a position and a protruding direction of this trigger are fixed, and the trigger is constituted as a portion of a reel seat on  
15     which a reel is mounted.

   [0003] Fig. 9 shows one example of a fishing rod "r" that is provided with a reel seat with this type of trigger "f". Figs. 10(A) and (B) show details of the reel seat "a".

   [0004] The reel seat "a" has a pipe-shaped body "b". On the top of the right  
20     half of this body "b" (right direction in Figs. 9 and 10(A) and (B)), a reel foot placing surface "e" is provided in a shape in which a fixing foot "d" of a reel "c" can be stably placed. From the bottom portion, a trigger "f", which has a tip with a relatively thin width, protrudes downward and slightly forward. The length of trigger "f" is approximately equal to a length in which one finger of a medium size adult can be  
25     placed (Figs. 11(A) and (B)).

   [0005] A fixed hood "g" is provided, which is integrally formed with the body "b" and has a flat opening "h" which covers the rear end portion of the reel foot placing surface "e". The trigger "f" protrudes from this fixed hood "g".

   [0006] A pipe-shaped movable hood "i" is provided with a rotatably  
30     connected nut on the front side. The nut "j" is engaged to an engaging axial portion "k" which forms the front half portion of the body "b", and thus is attached to the body

"b". An opening "l" of the rear end portion of the movable hood "i" covers the front end portion of the reel foot placing surface "e".

[0007] This type of reel seat "a" forms a portion of a fishing rod "r" by a fishing pole "n" being inserted and attached to a hole "m" of the body "b". The trigger "f" protrudes substantially perpendicular from the fishing rod pole.

[0008] The fishing pole "n" protrudes toward the rear of the body "b". A long handle "o" is externally fixed to this portion of fishing pole "n". Additionally, line guides "q" are attached in series on the front side of the body "b" from the reel seat "a" on the fishing pole "n".

[0009] When the reel "c" is mounted, one end portion of the fixing foot "d" is inserted into the fixed hood "g". The fixing foot "d" is placed on the reel foot placing surface "e". The nut "j" is tightened and the movable hood "i" is moved toward the rear direction. The other end portion of the fixing foot "d" is inserted relative to the movable hood "i", and the respective movable and fixed hoods "g" and "i" hold the fixing foot "d" onto the reel foot placing surface "e".

[0010] In this fishing rod "r", casting and palming are normally performed as follows.

[0011] Figs. 11(A) and 11(B) show a user that has just completed a single hand cast. During single hand casting, an index finger of the hand holding the fishing rod "r" is placed on the trigger "f." A thumb is placed on a spool "p" of the reel "c" in order to measure the timing of line feed out. The handle "o" to the rear body "b" is gripped by the remaining three fingers. Furthermore, as shown in Figs. 11(A) and 11(B), by facing the palm upward, a fishing rod "r" is positioned so that the bottom of the reel "c" faces sideways. Casting is performed by swinging the rod "r" in an overthrow motion toward a target.

[0012] Therefore, the trigger "f" of this case primarily prevents the fishing rod "r" from being thrown away.

[0013] In Figs. 11(A) and 11(B), a case of single hand casting is shown. However, when casting is performed by both hands, other than gripping the tip of the handle "o" with the other hand, there is no significant difference in rod gripping compared to single hand casting.

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5       **[0014]** As shown in Figs. 13 and 14(A), the fishing rod "r" is supported by a user's palm after casting is completed so that the reel "c" and the reel seat "a" can be entirely covered by one hand. In this case, the tip of the user's thumb is placed on the top end of the periphery of the side wall of the reel "c", and the user's third finger or middle finger is placed on the trigger "f" (in the figures, placement of the third finger is shown). Therefore, the body "b" of the reel seat "a" is supported from the bottom by the user's three fingers. By so doing, the reel "c", which is the heaviest part of the fishing rod "r" and the reel seat "a" are held in the user's palm, so the user is less fatigued.

10       **[0015]** Depending on the user and the type of the reel "c", this palming can be performed by either hand.

15       **[0016]** Furthermore, conventionally this type of trigger "f" can have various shapes. There are many shapes which are substantially perpendicular to the fishing rod "r" or bent more slightly toward the front than of the fishing rod "r" (e.g., Japanese Patent Publication 2717338, Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application 9-205944, or the like). There are also triggers which are bent in an arc shape from a lower direction to a front side (Japanese Utility Model 51-8874, Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Application 7-34664, or the like).

20       **[0017]** Additionally, the trigger "f" may be formed separate from the reel seat, and then fixed to the reel seat or the handle.

**[0018]** In a fishing rod with a conventional trigger "f" there is a significant burden to a user's wrist or elbow during casting and palming. It is also difficult to stabilize a fishing rod.

25       **[0019]** A main cause of these problems is a preconception that slipping during casting must be prevented by placing an index finger on a trigger. If a trigger is designed based on this concept, the trigger will have a shape and protruding direction so that when the user's index finger is placed on the trigger it is difficult to remove. In this state, the user's thumb can easily reach to the top surface or the rear surface of the spool of a reel. Therefore, the trigger protrudes at an angle which is  
30       substantially perpendicular to the fishing rod or bent toward a front side. The trigger is relatively close to the reel, with a length sufficient for a user to place one index